

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 REYKJA 00249 211104Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-07 OFA-01

DLOS-04 CG-00 DOTE-00 SAM-01 IO-11 /093 W

----- 068157

R 210945Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6061

INFO COMICEDEFOR

CINCLANT

CNO WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 0249

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS PFOR IC UK

SUBJECT: ICELAND-UK FISHERIES DISPUTE: INITIAL COMMENT ON  
DIPLOMATIC BREAK

1. COMMENTS BY GOVERNMENT AND PARTY LEADERS ON YESTERDAY'S GOI  
DECISION TO BREAK DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH UK GENERALLY STRESSED  
THAT MOVE WAS UNAVOIDABLE IN LIGHT OF BRITISH BEHAVIOR IN  
FISHERIES DISPUTE. HOWEVER, TONE OF COMMENT REFLECTED SOME SENSE  
OF LET-DOWN NOW THAT STEP HAD ACTUALLY BEEN TAKEN.

2. PRIME MINISTER GEIR HALLGRIMSSON CITED AS REASONS FOR BREAK  
INCURSIONS OF UK FRIGATES, REPEATED RAMMINGS OF ICELANDIC VESSELS,  
AND BRITISH FISHING IN CONSERVATION ZONES. PRIMEMIN TOLD PRESS  
THAT IN 14 DAYS SINCE UK LAST RESUMED ITS TACTICS, SYG LUNS  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 REYKJA 00249 211104Z

AND NATO ALLIES HAD TRIED TO BRING ABOUT CHANGE IN BRITISH ACTIONS

WITHOUT SUCCESS. THEREFORE, NO ALTERNATIVE REMAINED BUT TO PROCEED WITH BREAK, SAID PRIMEMIN.

3. FONMIN EINAR AGUSTSSON SAID IN INTERVIEW THAT BREAK IN RELATIONS WAS STEP GOI WAS FORCED TO TAKE AS RESULT OF UK ACTION. THERE HAD LONG BEEN FULL JUSTIFICATION FOR BREAK, FONMIN SAID, BUT GOI HAD DELAYED WHILE NATO SOUGHT TO GET NEGOTIATIONS RESUMED. NOW IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THERE IS NO BASIS FOR NEW TALKS AND NO LONGER REASON TO DELAY SEVERING RELATIONS. FONMIN SAID IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY WHAT NEXT STEP WOULD BE. ASKED IF RECALL OF AMBASSADOR TO NATO OR ACTION INVOLVING KEFLAVIK BASE CAME INTO PICTURE, AGUSTSSON SAID THERE HAD BEEN VARIOUS TALK OF SUCH STEPS BUT THAT CABINET HAD TAKEN NO DECISIONS.

4. SDP CHAIRMAN BENEDIKT GRONDAL SAID BRITISH MUST HAVE REALIZED THAT THEIR ACTIONS WOULD BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY BY ICELAND AND THAT BREAK IN RELATIONS, WHILE GRAVE STEP, WAS INEVITABLE WHEN UK FAILED TO CHANGE TACTICS DESPITE GOI WARNINGS. LIBERALS AND LEFTISTS CHAIRMAN MAGNUS TORFI OLAFSSON SAID DIPLOMATIC BREAK HAD LONG BEEN IN CARDS, THOUGH HE DID NOT THINK IT WOULD PRODUCE ANY CHANGE IN BRITISH BEHAVIOUR. PEOPLES ALLIANCE, WHICH HAS BEEN DEMANDING IMMEDIATE BREAK FOR WEEKS, LARGELY IGNORED IT WHEN IT CAME.  
MARTIN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS INTERRUPTION, POLITICAL LEADERS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, FISHING DISPUTES, FISHING REGULATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976REYKJA00249  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760066-0229  
**From:** REYKJAVIK  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760227/aaaaaxkd.tel  
**Line Count:** 86  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** castelsl  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07 JUL 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <07 JUL 2004 by schwenja>; APPROVED <24 AUG 2004 by castelsl>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ICELAND-UK FISHERIES DISPUTE: INITIAL COMMENT ON DIPLOMATIC BREAK  
**TAGS:** EFIS, PFOR, IC, UK, (HALLGRIMSSON, GEIR)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006